

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 154410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF

SUBJECT: US POSITION IN JUNE 16 ARMS EMBARGO COMMITTEE
MEETING

REFERENCE: GRAHAM-ESCUDERO TELECON

1. ANTICIPATED STATEMENT BEFORE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS EMBARGO WATCHDOG COMMITTEE BY NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN WILL, IF BASED UPON RECENT TESTIMONY BEFORE ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE, LIKELY DISTORT AND ATTACK US POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA. USUN REP SHOULD AVOID GETTING INTO CONFRONTATION. USUN REP SHOULD REPLY THAT US TAKES NOTE OF STATEMENTS BY NIGERIAN PERM REP AND SHARES HIS DESIRE TO BRING ABOUT TRANSFORMATION OF APARTHEID INTO A JUST SOCIAL SYSTEM INVOLVING FULL PARTICIPATION FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS. US
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POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID AND IN SUPPORT OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IN BOTH ITS PRESENT MANDATORY AND EARLIER VOLUNTARY FORMS IS CLEAR. US ADHERES STRICTLY TO EMBARGO, HAS IN PAST PROSECUTED VIOLATORS, AND HAS ENACTED REGULATIONS WHICH GO WELL BEYOND THE TERMS OF SC RESOLUTION 418 IN THAT WE FORBID THE SALE OF ANY ITEM WHATSOEVER DESTINED FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY OR

POLICE. US FEELS THAT DISCUSSION OF OTHER ITEMS NOT RELATED TO SOUTH AFRICA ARMS EMBARGO AND COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS OF SC RESOLUTION 418 SHOULD BE RELEGATED TO MORE APPROPRIATE

FORA. WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO RESPOND TO A FORMAL NOTE FROM THE COMMITTEE REFERRING TO MATTERS RELATED TO THE SOUTH AFRICA ARMS EMBARGO.

2. COMMENT: FYI: DEPARTMENT SEES LITTLE GAIN IN RESPONDING POINT-BY-POINT TO A STATEMENT BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PERSONS SUCH AS MCBRIDE AND GERVASI, AMONG OTHERS, WHOSE REPUTATION FOR MISSTATEMENTS AND INACCURACY ON THIS ISSUE IS WELL-DESERVED. SOME OF THE CHARGES MADE IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE MAY HAVE BASIS IN FACT BUT MANY WERE SIMPLY PULLED OUT OF THE AIR AND SOME HAVE BEEN REFUTED ALREADY. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RESPONDING, SHOULD WE BE REQUESTED TO DO SO, TO ANY OF HARRIMAN'S STATEMENTS REGARDING ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE ARMS EMBARGO BASED ON ELEMENTS OF THE TESTIMONY WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE FACTUAL OR WHICH WE HAVE NOT ALREADY REFUTED IN OTHER CONTEXTS.

3. VAST BULK OF TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT DISTORTED OUR POLICIES AND LED TO PREDICTABLE CONCLUSIONS ON PART OF COMMITTEE. IS THERE ANY CHANCE FUTURE COMMITTEE TESTIMONY COULD BE MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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BALANCED AND LESS REFLECTIVE OF PRECONCEIVED CONCLUSIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS?

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